

Board Meeting .....September 7, 2021.....12:00 noon

Board Members Present: Dr. Bryan Bagdasian, Chairman  
Dr. Bruce E. Bodner, Board Member  
Dr. Charles A. Thayer, Board Member

Staff Present: Heather L. Gallant, Executive Director, Adam Vickstrom, Assistant  
Executive Director, Kevin Duquette, Daniel Syriala, Daniel Ross, Eileen  
North, Brian McCracken, Michelle Borrello,

Others Present: Kenneth Gibson, Jan Boboruzian, Cheryl Sbarra

**1. Motion: By Dr. Bagdasian to approve June Board Meeting Minutes with new amendment added by Dr. Bagdasian. Dr. Thayer seconded. All in favor. So voted. Motion: By Dr. Bagdasian to approve August Board Meeting Minutes. Dr. Thayer seconded. All in favor. So voted.**

**2. Sanitary Inspectors Monthly Reports were submitted for the Board's review:**

Daniel Syriala reported everything is going well. There is a steady flow of installation of systems.

Daniel Ross reported an uptake of nuisance calls.

Eileen North reported everything is going well. She opened three new restaurants this month. Los Comida Kitchen on Broadway, an adult day care called Happy Health Center and the First Parish Church Food Pantry.

Brian McCracken reported he has been doing routine inspections and did the Hopewell Park End of Summer Event. There was nothing out of the ordinary.

**3. Public Health Nurse Monthly Report**

Michelle Borrello reported she continues to monitor COVID cases in the City along with the CTC helping to investigate. The CTC help will end in December. Through the Opera Funds the Board of Health is looking to hire a part time nurse to help out with the contact tracing. The Vax Bus was at Taunton High School for 3 consecutive days and 120 students got the vaccine. The bus will be back at the end of the month for the second round. She has been working with Pediatric Associates and Heidi Taylor from Morton Hospital to get the Vax Bus set up at Northwoods to get those kids vaccinated at the same time they are doing wellness checks for schools.

**4. Assistant Executive Director Monthly Report**

Adam Vickstrom reported he opened two new businesses this month, a motorcycle repair shop and a tattoo parlor that moved to a new location. There were no issues with either locations. He stated the hazardous material applications for renewals will be going out at the end of this week.

## **5. Executive Director Monthly Report**

Heather Gallant reported everything is going well. She works with Karen Reagan every day, nights, weekends and holidays to coordinate on cases and any cases that may be among school age children so she can do contact tracing. It has been very successful. They have been doing this since day one of when COVID started. It has been really busy.

## **6. Old Business:**

### **a. Taunton Sanitary Landfill Updates:**

- a. Kevin Duquette reported that there have been no changes at the landfill. The landfill is operating as normal which they are continuing to do the capping process. He has not received any complaints. The gas collection system is operating as normal.
- b. Waste Management – No representative present
- c. Fortistar- No representative present

### **b. Western Bristol County Tobacco Prevention Collaborative – Updates**

Diane Heath is the replacement for Seth Baker. She was present for today's meeting. Recently she did an internship with the city of Attleboro Health Department. She took interest in what their health agents did. This position was presented to her and she gladly accepted.

- c. **Medical / Recreational Use of Marijuana Update-** Heather Gallant reported there is no new information she is aware of.

### **d. a. Clear Water Environmental, variance requests to Title 5 requirements for the installation of a septic system at Taunton Municipal Airport, Hanger #9, Westcoat Drive (continued)**

Dr. Bagdasian stated there has been a request for a variance to the Board because one of the airport hangar owners wants to update their septic system. He stated the Board only heard a little about the plans and didn't have a lot of information at their disposal at the prior meeting. There was no representative present for Clear Water Environmental at today's meeting. Jan Boboruzian stated just one hour prior to today's meeting he received a letter from Clear Water Environmental dated September 7, 2021, a laboratory report from Granite State Analytical Services and a WPA form for determination of applicability and some layout plan. He has had no time to review this information and still has questions. No as built have been presented and there has

been no 3<sup>rd</sup> party engineer hired. Kenneth Gibson (one of the airport's commissioners) stated the airport must be in compliance with all the FAA regulations or the airport will lose the grant money it receives from the FAA. He stated the Commissioners will not move forward with this matter until Clear Water Environmental follows all the proper procedures and grants all the requests made by the Commissioners.

**Dr. Thayer makes a motion to continue without prejudice to the next regular meeting of the Board of a Health. Dr. Bodner seconded. All in favor. So voted.**

- e. **Miscellaneous** Heather Gallant stated there is no miscellaneous old business.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. Discussion of proposed City of Taunton Charter**

On August 23, 2021 a new City Charter was approved by City Council. The next step in the Charter approval process requires that the proposed charter be sent to state legislature as a Home Rule petition and go through the legislative process and eventually be signed by the governor. Then returned to the City of Taunton to be put on the ballot for approval by the voters. Attorney Cheryl Sbarra, Executive Director of Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, has joined today's meeting to explain the new Charter and the effects it will have on the Board of Health. Ms. Sbarra stated the Charter emphasizes strong Mayor - form of government. The Mayor would be able to attend meetings of the Board of Health, including executive sessions, participate in discussions, make motions and exercise every other right of a regular member of such body. The Mayor would be the appointing authority for all the city officials and department directors. The department directors would be obligated to assist in collective bargaining on behalf of the city and would not be eligible to be in any union notwithstanding any collective bargaining agreement to the contrary. The director would receive a standard employment contract that would run the course of a fiscal year. At the end of a specific fiscal year the contract would be renegotiated. The Charter includes a member principle. Its states multiple member bodies show all appointments for employees or board members shall be made on the basis of merit and fitness demonstrated by examination, past performance or other evidence of competence and suitability.

### **b. Miscellaneous- none**

## **8. Communications:**

### **a. Miscellaneous**

- Dr. Bagdasian gave an update on the MA Covid-19 Program and E-cigarette fight
- 150k more people were vaccinated last month
- Currently 65% of Massachusetts entire population was vaccinated

-CDC recommends that people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised receive an additional dose of an mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna)

-FDA is technically supposed to decide which e-cigarette brands and products including Juul can stay on the market by September 9<sup>th</sup>. The agency is almost certainly going to miss the deadline.

**9. Any Other Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance- none**

**Schedule the Next Monthly Board Meeting:**


**Motion: By Dr. Bagdasian to have the next meeting October 5, 2021. Dr. Bodner seconded. All in favor. So voted.**

The next monthly board meeting will be <sup>OCTOBER 5, 11th</sup> ~~September 7, 2021~~ at 12:00 noon.

**Motion: For adjournment of the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dr. Bryan Bagdasian  
Chairman

  
Dr. Bruce E. Bodner  
Board Member

  
Dr. Charles A. Thayer  
Board Member